(b) and (c) Government believe that India and Pakistan should promote bilateral trade and economic relations for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries. India is also committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully. Government intends to continue with the present process of confidence building, cooperation and dialogue in an atmoshphere free from terror and violence.

Implementation of Indo-US deal

1803. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Foreign Secretary during his visit to Washington in December last discussed the strategy for implementation of Indo-US nuclear deal of July 18, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy chalked out for separation of civilian and military nuclear sites; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Foreign Secretary visited Washington 21-22 December for the meeting of the Working Group on civilian nuclear energy and held discussion with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mr. Nicholas Burns, on the implementation of India-US understanding on civilian nuclear energy cooperation of July 18, 2005.

(c) The position with regard to discussions between India-US on civilain nuclear energy cooperation was elucidated in the Prime Minister's *Suo Motu* statement on this subject on February 27, 2006. Furthermore, the India-US Joint Statement issued following talks between Prime Minister and US President on 2 March, 2006 underlines the successful completion of discussions on India's separation plan and looks forward to the full implementation of the commitments in the July 18, 2005 Joint Statement on nuclear cooperation. This historic accomplishment will permit our countries to move forward towards our common objective of full civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and the United States and between India and the international community as a whole.